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Acting
Monday
December 1, 1952

I went to the airport with McWilliams this morning to see the Secretary off for New York in the Independence.

Afterwards the staff meeting, where we briefly discussed the predicament of the French union forces at Nasa in Indochina. I talked about this matter later to Doug MacArthur.

The new Ecuadoran Ambassador, introduced by Ray Muir, called on me. I told him of my experiences in his country twenty-six years ago.

Mr. Vollgruber, Deputy Foreign Minister of Austria, came to see me. I had known him in Paris where I formed a liking for him. He has been in his present position for three years.

I had a talk with Carl Humelsine about the two loyalty cases of John Carter Vincent and John Davies. Some of these cases take up a lot of time since the records are [redacted] voluminous. I read last week some hundreds of pages of Clubb's proposed book on the investigation of his loyalty. As regards Vincent and Davies, however, I have not had access to their records, and Carl simply wanted to tell me that a decision from Hiram Bingham's board was expected in a few days.

I went to see the President. The only official matter I had to take up was about [redacted] Eddie Locke, whose performance in the Near East as a quasi-independent Ambassador has set our other people there on their ears. Minor has demanded that either he or Locke be recalled. I showed the telegrams on the subject to the President, and we decided that the State Department would order Locke to return for consultation and then, if we so desired, the Department would abolish the position now occupied by him.

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The President talked to me a good bit about the transition period and what General Eisenhower would probably have to do before the Senate confirmed his Cabinet and some of his other important appointments. I think the simplest way to handle it would be if President Truman, at the request of General Eisenhower, sent the nominations down before January 20 so [redacted] they could be acted upon without delay.

E. and I went to a large lunch at the Belgian Embassy in honor of Foreign Minister Van Zeeland. [redacted]

I talked to Bob Lovett this afternoon about the oil cartel business, and he said he would persuade Oscar Chapman to talk to the President.

We had dinner tonight at Mrs. Irwin Laughlin's [redacted] beautiful French-style house on Crescent Place. This was designed by Jack Pope and constructed about 1920. The dinner was for my old friend, although she is much younger than I am, Mrs. Laughlin's niece Louise Mills. The Krocks, Huntington Cairns, the John Walkers, the David Finleys, and the Robert Blisses were there. Mrs. Laughlin has [redacted] fine wines. I unfortunately spilled a glass of magnificent 1920 claret all over the table.

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